



Steungroep voor inheemse volken
Groupe d'appui pour les peuples indigènes
Support group for indigenous peoples
Grupo de apoyo para los pueblos indigenas

To Mr. Kofi Annan
UN Secretary General
United Nations Plaza
N.Y. 10017, U.S.A.
Fax: 1 212 963 48 79

Antwerpen, April 30, 1999.

Dear Mr. Annan,

Once more we are writing you to express our deep concerns about the situation in Indonesia occupied East Timor.

Since months, anti-referendum and anti-independance militias are terrorising the population of East Timor. Starting in the region of Alas, in November last year, their violence was spread rapidly through the vast area along the border with Indonesia, from Ainarro to Liquica, through Suai on the south coast, Baliba on the border, Maubara on the northern coast up to the capital Dili. Thousands of refugees are fleeing to the forests or to the larger cities. Hundreds of East Timorese have been killed during the last months by the militiamen. It culminated in the massacre in the church of Liquica and still continues. In their testimonies, refugees refer to the presence of Indonesian troops operating alongside the paramilitary groups.

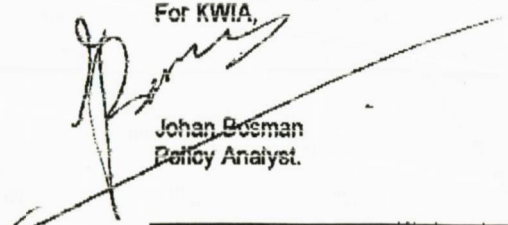
In January, after the Jakarta government's announcement that the East Timorese could choose independance, military authorities publicly admitted that they are recruiting, training and arming the militiamen. General Damari, military commander of the Bali region, which includes East Timor, Colonel Tono Suraiman, commander of ABRI in Dili as well as Abilio Soares, Indonesian Governor to East Timor, have publicly supported the paramilitary groups.

The violence can abort the UN's efforts and the hope raised by the Jakarta Government since your representative to East Timor, Ambassador J. Marker, said that the "consultation" cannot go ahead in a climate of violence.

Some days ago, Lafaek Saburaj, leader of the "Red Blood Commando" wrote in a letter to the leader of the coordination of paramilitary groups, João Da Silva Tavares, that his militia would start operation "Universal Sweep" from Saturday, Mai 1, 1999 on, against everybody that not left Dili by that time. "After passing of the deadline, we will conclude that everyone left in Dili, be they man or woman, old or young, child or adult, is an anti-integrationist who should and must be exterminated and whiped out" the statement said. "The armed support in our possession is capable of destroying several towns in a matter of seconds, the first target is Dili", the "Red Blood Commando" warned.

Therefore, Mr. Annan, we urge you to send a UN peacekeeping force to East Timor as swiftly as possible, in order to guarantee the the safety of the population and all political leaders on East Timor and securing a safe climate in which the referendum will be able to take place in a democratic way on August 3, 1999.

Sincerely yours,
For KWIA,


Johan Bosman
Policy Analyst.

Breughelstraat 31-33 2018 Antwerpen Belgium Tel (+32) (0)3/218.84.88
Fax (+32)(0)3/230.45.40 e-mail: kwia@agoranel.be Rek. 523-0800277-05